

Appl. No.: 10/812,744
Amdt. dated 11/15/2004
Reply to Office action of August 16, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were examined. The Office Action indicated that Claims 8 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and amended to address certain indefinite language cited in the Office Action. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-14, 16, and 18-20 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,402,520 to Freer. Claims 6 and 15 were rejected as unpatentable over Freer in view of JP 08-029209 to Sakata et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to address the indefiniteness rejection and to incorporate the features of Claim 8, which has been canceled. It is submitted that Claim 1 is now allowable.

Claim 9 has been amended in a fashion similar to Claim 1, and as such, is submitted to be allowable.

Claim 10 has also been amended in a fashion similar to Claim 1, incorporating the features of Claim 17, and Claim 17 has been canceled. Claim 18 also has been amended in a fashion similar to Claim 1, and the misspelling noted in the Office Action has been corrected. Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled.

With these amendments, it is submitted that all rejections and objections to the claims have been overcome.

Conclusion

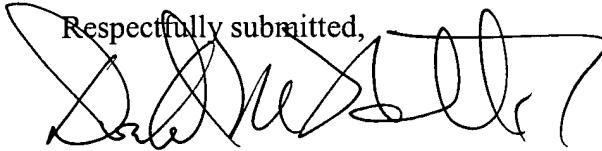
Based on the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any remaining issues requiring resolution before a Notice of Allowance can be issued.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 15, 2004



Nancy McPartland

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